

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for sealing containers which comprises a sealing head for sealing a peripheral edge portion of a lid to an inner surface of a downwardly tapered body wall of the container, the sealing head being provided with a seal holding face fittable to the body wall inner surface, ~~the apparatus being characterized in that~~ wherein recesses are formed respectively in a plurality of portions of the seal holding face along the circumference thereof for guiding slack produced in the lid peripheral edge portion at the time of sealing.

Claim 2 (Original): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 1 wherein the seal holding face has an upper region and a lower region, and the recesses are positioned in the lower region.

Claim 3 (Original): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 2 wherein the recesses each have a lower end which is open downward.

Claim 4 (Original): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 3 wherein the

recesses are each in the form of a groove extending vertically and are arranged at a constant spacing.

Claim 5 (Original): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 4 wherein the recesses have a width approximately equal to the spacing between the adjacent recesses.

Claim 6 (Original): An apparatus for sealing containers according to any one of claims 1 to 5 which comprises a holder for holding the container and wherein the holder has a container inserting bore, and an inner peripheral surface of the holder defining the bore has an upper end portion providing a seal bearing face corresponding to the seal holding face, the seal bearing face having a diameter constant over the entire length thereof and equal to the outside diameter of an upper end of the container body wall.

Claim 7 (New): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 3 wherein the recesses are each in the form of a groove extending vertically, the number of recesses is in the range of 4 to 360, and each of the recesses has a depth which is at least 1/4 of the width thereof.

Claim 8 (New): An apparatus for sealing containers according to claim 3 wherein the recesses are each in the form of a groove extending vertically, the number of recesses is in the range of 10 to 120 and each of the recesses has a depth which is at least 1/4 of the width thereof.